

## Update from the Department of Early Learning March 2009

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### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This is an historic moment for children and families in Washington—we have completed the 38 percent expansion of the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP). More than 8,220 young children are enrolled in this whole-child preschool program for 3- and 4-year-olds from low-income families—the most children ever enrolled. This program is so important to help children start kindergarten ready to succeed, and I applaud DEL's ECEAP staff and the contractors we work with around the state for making this happen!



Legislative session continues, with much focus on and conversation around early learning. I'm continually amazed by the passion and dedication so many in our state have for our youngest residents. Remember to check regularly on DEL's Government Relations Web page to learn the latest happenings in Olympia:

[www.del.wa.gov/government/legislature/week.aspx](http://www.del.wa.gov/government/legislature/week.aspx).

Finally, please join me in extending a warm welcome to Dr. Bette Hyde, whom Gov. Chris Gregoire has appointed as the new DEL Director. Bette has dedicated her career to helping children realize their potential, and is well-known for her work as Bremerton School District Superintendent in connecting the early learning and K-12 systems. She is scheduled to come on board April 15. I know she'll be an incredible asset to Washington's early learning community, and I will help her in any way I can during the transition. Learn more about Bette on page 2.

—Karen Tvedt, Interim Director

### State implements new case management system

In February, the Department of Social and Health Services Children's Administration implemented a new case management system. The system—called FamLink—replaces CAMIS and is designed to do a better job supporting providers who serve children in Washington. The system helps our state manage records, licensing, and payments related to child care, foster care, and more.



Children's Administration service providers will experience some changes as a result. Detailed information about these expected changes is available at [www1.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/ca/FamLinkemail.pdf](http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/ca/FamLinkemail.pdf).

The Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) subsidy program should not be affected by the switch to FamLink. Child care providers who accept WCCC payments should continue to contact their local Community Service Office (CSO). Find a list of CSOs at:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/f2ws03esaapps/onlinecso/findservice.asp>.

## Gov. Gregoire announces new DEL director

Dr. Bette Hyde, longtime public educator and Bremerton School District superintendent, will start as DEL's new director on April 15! Gov. Gregoire announced Bette's appointment during a press conference on Feb. 10 at the Pike Market Child Care and Preschool.

"Bette is as passionate as she is knowledgeable about early learning," Gregoire said at the event. "Bette is like a bridge—a bridge among competing interests, and a bridge to make good things happen for our kids from early childhood to 12th grade."

"I have great expectations for Bette, but I know they probably don't exceed Bette's expectations for herself."

Bette has served as superintendent of the Bremerton School District for seven years, where she is well-known for her work partnering with local early learning groups to improve school readiness. She began her career as a special education teacher, and has worked as a school psychologist, principal, and assistant superintendent, as well as a deputy superintendent for Puget Sound ESD.

Read more at [www.del.wa.gov/resources/newsroom/021009.aspx](http://www.del.wa.gov/resources/newsroom/021009.aspx).



*Gov. Gregoire, Dr. Hyde and Sen. Rosemary McAuliffe speak with Pike Market Child Care and Preschool Director Ellen von Wandruszka*



*Gov. Gregoire and Dr. Hyde speak with some young constituents*



*A warm welcome from Pike Market Child Care and Preschool staff and children*

## Thrive by Five Washington launches new “Learning for Life” TV series

DEL’s nonprofit partner, Thrive by Five Washington, has launched a new partnership with BELO Seattle, which owns KING 5 TV, KONG 6/16 TV and Northwest Cable News.

Called *Learning for Life*, this series of news features tackles a variety of early learning topics relevant to parents, grandparents, caregivers and the general public. A weeklong series will air the third week of every month.



The series kicked off in February with a look at what it means to be school ready, and why it’s important for children to start school ready to succeed.

Watch February’s series online at [www.king5.com/learning-for-life/](http://www.king5.com/learning-for-life/).

## DEL, King County libraries partner to share info on choosing child care

DEL and the King County Library System have partnered to make more than 3,000 copies of the state’s guide to choosing child care available for families at the 44 King County library branches.

Called “You Have a Choice! A Guide to Finding Quality Child Care,” the booklet includes information on:

- The benefits of licensed child care
- How to find the right child care for your family
- Getting help paying for child care
- Getting involved in your child’s care

The guides will be available in all King County branches, with special emphasis on reaching parents who bring in young children for library story times and family programs, said Maren Ostergard, early literacy/outreach librarian for the King County Library System.

“We definitely want to let people know what’s out there to support them,” she said. Ostergard will also bring along the guides as she visits the communities for outreach projects with parents.

In 2008, DEL partnered with the Pierce County Library System to provide about 2,000 guides for library visitors. Youth Services Director Judy Nelson said the guides have been distributed among the branches and are also part of the Ready to Learn boxes available for families.

View the booklet online at

[www.del.wa.gov/publications/development/docs/ChoosingChildCare.pdf](http://www.del.wa.gov/publications/development/docs/ChoosingChildCare.pdf)

or e-mail [communications@del.wa.gov](mailto:communications@del.wa.gov) to order copies.

## New CCDF planning information on DEL Web site

As the lead agency in Washington for the federal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), DEL must submit a plan every two years for how the funding will be spent.

The next plan is due July 1, 2009. We are currently working with stakeholders on this plan, and have added a new section on our Web site for up-to-date information on this work. Visit [www.del.wa.gov/government/CCDF/plan.aspx](http://www.del.wa.gov/government/CCDF/plan.aspx) to learn more about how CCDF funding can be used and how we're building our 2009-2011 plan. More information will be posted there as it becomes available.



## Foundation for Early Learning launches social networking site

In an effort to provide a common place for members of the early learning community to share information and ideas, the Foundation for Early Learning (FEL) has launched its new Early Learning Community social network.

Everyone involved in the early learning community—families, educators and professionals—is able to log on and participate in forums, write blog entries, post early learning events, and more. Learn more and sign up at [www.earlylearningcommunity.org/](http://www.earlylearningcommunity.org/).

## Governor launches [www.recovery.wa.gov](http://www.recovery.wa.gov)

Gov. Chris Gregoire has launched a new Web site with information on how the federal economic recovery plan (The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, or ARRA) is being implemented in our state.

Visit [www.recovery.wa.gov](http://www.recovery.wa.gov) to learn more about sources of money, state agencies involved in the recovery efforts, and links to federal information. Specific to early learning, ARRA includes about \$2 billion in additional funding for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) nationally, and \$2.1 billion for Head Start/Early Head Start.

"One of the most important parts of the federal recovery plan is the emphasis on accountability and transparency," Gregoire said in announcing the new site. "Our Web site will provide a place for Washingtonians to see where the recovery money is going and the results that are being produced."

